STYLE. AS SHE SHOUTED OUT WITH 'GLEE'

LEA MICHELE TALKS FASHION TIPS AND NEW ROLES. PAGE 21

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Thursday, May 29, 2014 www.metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork

RIDING HIGH

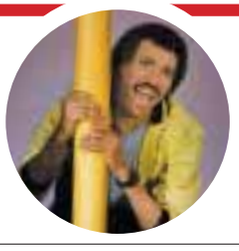
Hang on tight. The new Thunderbolt roller coaster is set to open in early June at Luna Park in Coney Island.

Don't look down. The coaster is 115 feet high, goes 55 miles per hour and will go upside down five times. PAGE 02

Vincent Washington, a resident of Coney Island for 57 years, looks on at the construction of the Thunderbolt roller coaster in Luna Park. / BESS ADLER, METRO

Music. Richie gives us the whole picture

PAGE 16



TV. Keeping Pace with 'Halt and Catch Fire'

PAGE 17

Playoffs. Rangers ready to rock the Garden

PAGE 28

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1 NEWS

Today's tweet

"Maybe this New York City weather is telling us to cool out and reflect on Dr. Angelou. I'll take the cue."

@SChambersBK

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 '50 Cent and Ja Rule feud back on after Fiddy's lousy first pitch at Mets game'

2 'VIDEO: Maya Angelou's greatest poems and television appearances'

3 'PHOTOS: Artist Rose-Lynn Fisher discovers beautiful landscapes in "Topography of Tears"'

Zamperla: Newest coaster 'work of art'

Thrills. Metro talks with the man behind Coney Island's newest roller coaster, the Thunderbolt.

Tejhmar Sunda, Luna Park employee, points at the soon to open Thunderbolt ride. / BESS ADLER, METRO

More than a decade after Coney Island's wooden Thunderbolt was torn down, a new version has replaced the old favorite.

Expected to open in early June, the Thunderbolt is Coney Island's first custom-designed roller coaster since the Cyclone debuted in 1927. The bright-orange steel ride was designed by Alberto Zamperla, president and CEO of Zamperla Group. The family-owned ride designer and manufacturer has crafted coasters and other attractions for amusement parks around the world.

Metro spoke with Zamperla about the Thunderbolt, what sets it apart and why he loves roller coasters.

How is the new Thunderbolt different from other roller coasters?

Zamperla: We have a new way to restrain the passengers, with a restraint over the waist and legs. … Usually the coasters start with an incline…we're taking up the car vertically, very straight. … Usually you have two or four seats in a row. This time we have three because a lot of families have only one child.

How do you think this coaster will stack up to the Cyclone?

The design of the Cyclone inspired many coasters … Coney Island — it deserves something new, something different.

What are some features of the ride?

The first drop is a vertical drop — so the people are going to be very excited right away. In a few seconds you're going to be around 55 miles per hour and you're going to have 5 Gs of vertical acceleration. The coaster is going to have five inversions, you're going to be five times upside down. There's going to be a loop, a corkscrew, there's going to be a heartline and a completely new design of curl where the car is going to be perpendicular to the ground.

When the ride reaches 5 Gs — what does that mean for riders?

The passenger is going to feel five times his weight. The coaster also has what we call positive G, so you feel like you're floating on the air.

Have there been any setbacks to building the coaster? The opening was originally set for Memorial Day weekend.

The weather didn't help us at all. Even when we were putting down the foundation, it was freezing and you cannot pour the concrete when the temperature is low.

Are you happy with how it turned out?

It's a work of art … just to look at that is very impressive.

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Alberto Zamperla
GETTY IMAGES

Pulse-pounding

"The speed, the accelerations, the feeling that you're flying. To be able to be free and go these high speeds is exciting."

Alberto Zamperla, on what he loves about these coasters

By the numbers

G-forces that are out of this world

5

Thunderbolt riders can expect to feel a vertical G-force of 5 Gs. The coaster tops 55 mph, lasts two minutes and costs $10 to ride.

7

Astronauts returning from the Moon on the Apollo 16 mission had their vehicle hit about 7 Gs upon re-entry.

Favorite ride?

"My favorite ride in Coney Island is the Cyclone because it's an oldie and it's thrilling."

Ricardo Francis, 28, Long Island

"The Cyclone is my favorite ride because it's the craziest. I like it because it is so risky and fast. It's a little rusty, though."

Naomi Victoria, 18, Sunset Park

"The Wonder Wheel is my favorite ride because I love heights and I love how it rocks back and forth."

Valentine Rodriguez, 20, Utica

"My favorite ride is the Soarin' Eagle. It's my favorite because I got to lay down. … You lie down in a carriage and it's kind of like a roller coaster. You're going head first into the unknown."

Chelsea Doring, 24, Australia

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Mayor de Blasio considers move to lift ferret ban

Pets. Ferrets, which are legal in the rest of New York, might be allowed back into the five boroughs.

After more than a decade of exile, ferrets may come back to the city.

The Health Department said on Wednesday that it asked the city's Board of Health to consider repealing a regulation that bans the furry creatures as pets in the five boroughs.

The consideration was spurred by a petition from Brooklyn resident Ariel Jasper, who also set up a public petition on Change.org to legalize ferrets.

A spokesperson for the Health Department said that residents will be able to weigh in on the ban and proposed change, although the specific date has not yet been determined.

"Evidence shows ferrets do not bite more frequently or severely than other pets the same size," says a memo from the Health Department obtained by The New York Times.

The board would likely take a vote in September after the public comment period closes.

CHESTER JESUS SORIA
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METRO.US Find a list of other animals banned in NYC at **metro.us.**

Ferret foe

Ferrets were banned in 1999 as pets in New York City — even though they are still legal elsewhere in the state — when then Mayor Rudy Giuliani aggressively spoke against ferrets as pets.

Ferrets have banned in New York City for more than a decade. / GETTY IMAGES

Poet laureate

Library will host exhibit to honor Maya Angelou

The New York Public Library announced on Wednesday that it's planning a commemorative exhibit of poet Maya Angelou's works from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in the near future. Angelou died Wednesday. More information about the event can be found at nypl.org. METRO

Games. City opts out of 2024 Olympics bid

Mayor Bill de Blasio took New York City out of the running to host the 2024 Olympics.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday that Alicia Glen, de Blasio's deputy mayor for housing and economic development, said bringing the games to NYC in 2024 "doesn't make sense."

When de Blasio was asked in mid May about hosting the games, he gave a tepid response.

THE OLYMPIC TORCH AT SOCHI
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The city was a last short-listed option for the 2012 Summer Olympics.

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Wall Street is one of the sectors of the city that is thriving. / GETTY IMAGES

NYC economy powers past US

Ka-ching. A new report shows the city's economic growth muscling ahead of the rest of the country.

Thriving sectors

- Numbers also showed more people are spending money on Broadway tickets. Ticket sales were up 15.1 percent from last year, earning $377 million.
- The numbers indicate Wall Street experienced its own boon in the first three months of the year with more jobs and bonuses.

Even the 54 inches of snow that hit New York City couldn't slow its economy down, according to a new report.

Comptroller Scott Stringer's office said on Wednesday that the city's overall economy grew 3 percent in the first three months of the year, outpacing the country's 0.1 percent growth.

More jobs and higher personal income tax withholding contributed to the boom.

The city added 18,800 payroll jobs since January, while the private sector accounted for about 21,000 jobs.

Economic powerhouse

"New York City was firing on all cylinders in the first quarter of 2014, even as the national economy stalled." Stringer

The majority of the new hires were in the city's education and health services sector.

The comptroller's office also said the unemployment rate continued to fall, down to 7.9 in the first quarter from 8.2 percent last fall.

Overall, the city's unemployment rate exceeds the national rate: unemployment nationwide dropped to 6.7 between January and March.

"The economy is picking up in the Big Apple as unemployment falls and real estate heats up, which helps boost our tax revenue. Time will tell if this momentum will be carried through the rest of 2014," Stringer said.

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Subway. Cops arrest man with machete, shotgun in his bag

A Manhattan man was arrested on a Brooklyn subway platform after he was found carrying an arsenal of weapons and ammunition in a duffel bag on Tuesday, police said.

Chelsea resident Christopher Palumbo, 27, was charged with several counts of weapons possession, as well as grand larceny and criminal possession of stolen property, according to police.

Around noon Tuesday, police responded to a report of a man on a S53 bus in Bay Ridge with a weapon sticking out of his bag.

When cops arrived to the scene, the man had already gotten off the bus, police said.

Officers canvassing the neighborhood found him waiting for a Manhattan-bound R train in a nearby subway station at 86th Street and Fourth Avenue, according to police.

Retired military

According to NBC New York, Palumbo is a former Marine.

- The bag that he was carrying reportedly contained several weapons including a shotgun, ammunition, a machete, military radios, and a laser for the shotgun.

In a bag he was holding, cops found a shotgun, shotgun shells, machine gun and handgun magazines, military radios, a laser for shotguns, a machete and a Marine Corps uniform, police said.

According to NBC New York, which first reported the arrest, Palumbo is a former Marine.

He reportedly told police he did not intend to hurt anyone.

ANNA SANDERS

Rally for Nigerian girls

Students from Midreshet Shalhevet High School for Girls protested outside the Nigerian consulate in New York City on Wednesday for more action to be taken to rescue school girls kidnapped by the extremist Islamist group Boko Haram In Nigeria. More than 300 teenage girls were kidnapped from their school in April. / GETTY IMAGES

In Brooklyn

Man attacks two with car club in motel

A man broke a teen's arm and injured another man with a car club in a Brooklyn motel earlier this month because he believed they threw things at his vehicle, police said.

Armed with a Club steering-wheel lock, the attacker barged into the Brooklyn Motor Inn at 140 Hamilton Avenue in Red Hook and struck the 13-year-old boy and 29-year-old man around 12:40 a.m. on May 10, police said.

The boy's arm broke and both he and the other man suffered cuts to the head, according to police.

Some kids had been throwing objects at the attacker's car, a law enforcement official said, prompting him to follow the victims into the motel and hit them. It's unclear if the victims were among those throwing stuff at the man's car, the official said.

The suspect / NYPD

The man was caught on video footage. Anyone with information about the attack is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477). ANNA SANDERS

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Diplomacy. Obama pledges aid to Syria opposition groups

President Barack Obama fought back against critics of his foreign policy on Wednesday by insisting U.S. reliance on diplomacy over military intervention was working to resolve global crises like Ukraine and Iran, and he pledged to ramp up support for Syria's opposition.

In the commencement address at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, Obama laid out his approach to foreign affairs for the rest of his presidency built on a commitment to act in concert with other nations and shifted the fight against terrorism from Afghanistan to more diffuse threats around the world. REUTERS

Partnerships

White House seeks $5B to fight terrorism

The Obama administration is seeking up to $5 billion to train and equip partners in other countries in order to fight violent extremism.

The Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund would "provide the flexibility and resources required to respond to emerging needs as terrorist threats around the world continue to evolve," the White House said in a statement. REUTERS

US author, poet Maya Angelou dies at 86

See more at www.metro.us

Active in the civil rights movement in the 1960s, Angelou worked with both Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. / GETTY IMAGES

Legacy of wisdom. The African-American writer died at her North Carolina home.

American author and poet Maya Angelou, an eloquent commentator on race and gender best known for her groundbreaking autobiography "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," has died at age 86 in North Carolina.

"She was a warrior for equality, tolerance and peace. The family is extremely appreciative of the time we had with her and we know that she is looking down upon us with love," her family said.

Her latest work, "Mom & Me & Mom," about her mother and grandmother and what they taught her, was released last year.

In her last tweet on May 23, Angelou said, "Listen to yourself and in that quietude you might hear the voice of God."

Literary and entertainment figures, politicians and fans mourned her passing on Wednesday.

President Barack Obama called her "a brilliant writer, a fierce friend and a truly phenomenal woman."

"With a kind word and a strong embrace, she had the ability to remind us that we are all God's children, that we all have something to offer," Obama said in a statement from the White House. REUTERS

Books

30

Angelou penned more than 30 books, won numerous awards and was honored last year by the National Book Awards for her service to the literary community.

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N.J. murder

Man gets life for daughter's car-seat drowning

A New Jersey man was sentenced to life without parole on Wednesday for killing his daughter by tossing her into an icy creek while she was strapped into a weighted-down car seat, prosecutors said.

Arthur Morgan III, 29, was convicted last month of first-degree murder after killing Tierra Morgan-Glover, 2, to get back at her mother, his estranged girlfriend, who had custody of the child. REUTERS

Edward Snowden says he was trained 'as a spy'

Leaked. Snowden is believed to have taken 1.7 million computerized documents.

Former spy agency contractor Edward Snowden said in a TV interview he "was trained as a spy" and had worked undercover overseas for government agencies.

In an advance excerpt of his interview in Moscow with "NBC Nightly News" that aired on Tuesday, Snowden rejected comments by critics that he was a low-level analyst.

"Well, it's no secret that the U.S. tends to get more and better intelligence out of computers nowadays than they do out of people," Snowden told NBC news anchor Brian Williams.

Describing himself as a "technical expert," Snowden said: "I don't work with people. I don't recruit agents. What I do is I put systems to work for the United States. And I've done that at all levels — from the bottom on the ground all the way to the top."

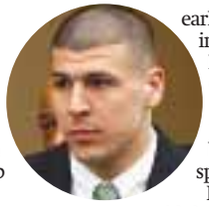
Snowden said he worked undercover overseas for both the CIA and NSA. REUTERS

NBC AIRED THE FULL INTERVIEW WITH SNOWDEN ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT. GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"I was trained as a spy in sort of the traditional sense of the word in that I lived and worked undercover overseas — pretending to work in a job that I'm not — and even being assigned a name that was not mine." Snowden

Ex-NFL star. Hernandez pleads not guilty to 2012 double murder



Aaron Hernandez pleaded not guilty on Wednesday to charges of murdering two men he met in a Boston nightclub in 2012.

The former New England Patriot, who is already in jail awaiting trial on charges of murdering a semi-pro football player in June 2013, was charged earlier this month in the 2012 killing of two Cape Verdean nationals after they allegedly bumped him, spilling his drink.

Prosecutors said that after leaving the nightclub, Hernandez followed the car that the men were riding in, pulled up alongside and shot the two men dead. REUTERS

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Auto pilot. Google is building self-driving cars sans brake pedals

A self-driving car is parked at the Google headquarters. / GETTY IMAGES

Google Inc. is building cars that don't have steering wheels, accelerator pedals or brake pedals, in an ambitious expansion of the Internet company's efforts to develop self-driving cars.

The small electric cars, which seat two passengers, are currently prototypes that Google has been building through partnerships with automotive suppliers and manufacturers, Google co-founder Sergey Brin said at the Code conference in Southern California on Tuesday.

Google aims to build up to 200 such cars in the near term and hopes the vehicles will be available in various cities within a couple of years, he said.

Google has been testing self-driving cars since 2009, incorporating laser sensors and radars into standard automobiles such as the Prius from Toyota Motor Corp. and sport-utility vehicles from Toyota luxury car division Lexus.

While those vehicles require a human to remain in the driver's seat and to take over in certain situations, the new cars operate completely autonomously.

REUTERS

Miles of stress

Your commute costs you more than you realize

We often tend to dismiss commuting costs as the necessary price of having a job. After all, especially in a difficult economic era, not everyone has the luxury of finding gainful employment within a short walk or bike ride from their home.

In fact, this week's Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, which surveyed Americans about daily commutes, discovered a virtual horror show.

They found the longer the commute, the higher the levels of one's obesity, cholesterol, pain, fatigue and anxiety.

REUTERS

Children turning four years old in 2014 who live in New York City are eligible for **FREE pre-k** at high-quality Community-Based Early Childhood Centers through the Department of Education.

What is a Community-Based Early Childhood Center (CBECC)?
Community-Based Early Childhood Centers, or CBECCs, include many daycare centers, private schools, preschools, libraries, and some museums. CBECCs are located across the City, and have been screened and approved by the Department of Education for safety, security, and quality.

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Hair fiddle makes music

An advertising creative has replaced the strings of a violin with his own human hair. Tadas Maksimovas, unveiled the video, showing the violin being played on his hair last week to promote the annual Street Musician's Day in Lithuania.

METRO WORLD NEWS / LINAS JUSTICE, REX

South Africa

Court to decide fate of girls 'swapped at birth'

A South African court will rule on the future of two 4-year-old girls who were accidentally switched the day they were born and have been raised by each other's biological mother, officials involved in the case said on Wednesday.

One of the mothers wants to get her biological daughter back, while the other prefers to keep the girl she has raised.

The babies were born on the same day in 2010 at the Tambo Memorial Hospital in Johannesburg but each ended up being taken home by the wrong mother.

The families were unaware of the mix-up until one of the mothers underwent tests when her ex-husband refused to pay child support because he believed he was not the father. **REUTERS**

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Personal space. Dress design could protect from overcrowding

Sometimes earphones, a tablet or a good old newspaper just aren't enough to protect your personal space on an overcrowded subway. That's where the "Personal Space Dress" comes to the rescue. The outfit, which includes in-built sensors to detect any pesky space invaders, unfolds and expands like an umbrella to keep any undesirables at bay, only to retract when personal space has been restored. Kathleen McDermott's formidable creation wasn't actually designed for everyday use. In fact, it's a work of art designed to highlight our relationship between wearable technology and the physical world. The Hong Kong-based artist tells Metro about the dress.

Is this a serious solution to personal space ?
No, it's actually a piece of art. All of the pieces in my "Urban Armor" project deal with issues that are happening in public spaces. One of my interests is the relationship between technology and the body. A lot of wearable devices are focusing on the way you relate to your virtual world, whereas these devices are relating to the physical world. This could be a polite way of people silently saying, "Don't stand too close to me!"

Is it a solution to unwanted intimacy?
They're meant to be funny but they're not meant to be hyper-literal. I don't think they're viable solutions to societal problems, but some people think they are. Some people go, "I would wear that …"

Some women feel threatened on public transit, so will this keep women safe?
I wasn't thinking about threats, it's about how you have a knee-jerk reaction when someone comes into your space. Maybe you have a reaction to move away, but instead of you moving away the dress does it for you and it does it in a much more exaggerated way. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

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Mariah: I'll bead there

Better late than never, especially if you show up in a dress like this! Mariah Carey nearly bared it all at Tuesday night's World Music Awards in Monte Carlo, opening up the show with her new song "Meteorite." But the sexy starlet was FOUR hours late! The audience didn't care too much, reports say, especially since the 44-year-old stepped out in this sexy Zuhair Murad number. There are also photos of her at Nice Airport, flying home in the gown! Talk about traveling in style. No sweats for Mimi!

One Direction passes one doobie in leaked video

To prepare for a gig in front of thousands of impressionable preteens, you can either: A. Warm up your vocals; B. Rest; or in One Direction's case, C. Film yourself smoking marijuana.

In a five-minute video obtained by the Daily Mail, Louis Tomlinson films his bandmate Zayn Malik as they both light up and smoke what appears to be a joint on a ride to their show in Peru.

If there was any doubt that it may just be a cigarette they're smoking, Tomlinson clears that right up with his nonstop references to marijuana. Not only does he call it a "joint," "J" and "Mary J," the musician also films policemen and states that they can smell the "illegal substance."

As expected, Twitter erupted with young girls devastated. In an attempt to distract, bandmate Liam Payne, one of the three members not present in the video, tweeted out hashtag #WearAsManyClothesAsYouCanAtOnceFor1D. Thousands of fans tweeted out pictures of themselves layered in clothing and thanking Payne for saving the fandom. But not before several One Directioners posted pics of ripped-up concert tickets. Hey, they might smoke herb, but at least they're not telling teenagers to take off all their clothes, right? SIOBHAN REDDING

Zayn Malik catches a fire. / MAILONLINE

THE WORD

Christina Paciolla takes on the world of gossip.

CHRISTINA PACIOLLA
@cpaciolla
christina.paciolla@metro.us

2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

From best-selling authors, to actors and politicians, poet and author Maya Angelou inspired all. Chirlane McCray and J.K. Rowling tweet their love for the "she-ro."

@Chirlane: Honoring Maya Angelou and her bold, magnificent voice. May she live on through her words and through all of us she has touched.

@jk_rowling: "If you are always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be." Maya Angelou — who was utterly amazing.

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Lionel Richie: Fiesta forever

Can't slow down. The Motown legend offers sage advice on keeping up with the times.

Lionel Richie plays all the hits all night long on his current tour with Cee Lo. / GETTY IMAGES

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When Lionel Richie comes to the phone, he doesn't use the one word that he practically holds a copyright to. Instead he greets this reporter by name as if we're old friends.

Hello! Do you consciously try to not say "hello" in conversation?
Sometimes I forget altogether. Like today, because I am doing interviews, I am conscious of it. But other times I will say, "Hello" and people will be like, "A-ha!"

Younger generations still listen to you, and you're always working with new artists. Plus you're touring with Cee Lo Green. How do you stay current?
I actually still love the bulls—. You have to know that you can't take it seriously, because it's not serious. When you find yourself saying, "Oh my God, this is garbage! What's this on the radio?" ... If you find yourself saying that, it passed you by. ... Every generation has to come up with some new shock value.

Speaking of that, your tour mate had a hit with what's widely considered the most profane swear.
Absolutely! … What is happening now with Instagram and everyone taking pictures and putting it out there, in the '70s we could lose a career for that. Now this is just everyday humdrum.

Describe a pic from your '70s Instagram account.
It's 1974. We're in Amsterdam. I'm partying my brains out. ... And you can fly home and go to the first pew in church and it's "Lionel Jr. is back from tour."

PAT HEALY
@metrousmusic
pat.healy@metro.us

Follow-up Q&A

Stuck on you

We would be remiss if we didn't ask Richie about the photo from the inside of his "Can't Slow Down" album (pictured on page 1 of today's edition).
"At the very last minute the guy was like, 'Can you just take one with the pole?'" he says. "Out of all the other shots we're not going to use this one, right?"

Online

Is it meme you're looking for?

Did you ever see the meme of the "Lost Dog"-type sign with your picture and the lyrics to that song on a tree?
Can I tell you that thing is viral?! That is now a T-shirt!

Have you seen me? Of course you have! / INSTAGRAM

What's your reaction when people do that?
It's the best form of flattery. Are you kidding me? To be able to think that, where did that picture show up? London, Amsterdam, Cairo, Libya. I have people calling me saying, "Lionel I took a picture of this, and I am in Libya." This is what I've got! Everywhere in this planet that picture has stuck to something. There was a friend of mine who was looking for an apartment in Hong Kong and the place she was looking at, the next door neighbor had that picture hanging on the door across the hall.

Blipp here to see more Lionel Richie memes.

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AMC's latest hopes it will 'Catch Fire'

Interview. Lee Pace may be ambitious on AMC's new tech drama, but he wants you to know he's still a nice guy in real life.

If Lee Pace looks familiar, you're probably a fan of 2007's beloved but too quickly canceled "Pushing Daisies," or the similarly beloved but also canceled "Wonderfalls." The actor says of working on "Pushing Daisies," "It was a time in my life that I'll never forget." He can next be seen in AMC's newest drama, "Halt and Catch Fire."

The title refers to a computer command that causes all activities to compete so heavily for focus that nothing can move forward and the computer has to be reset. The show is set in the early '80s during the PC race. IBM had a virtual lock on the market, but that doesn't stop Pace's Joe MacMillan from trying to get in on the fun. He enlists a rebellious but brilliant college student (Mackenzie Davis) and an engineer (Scoot McNairy) struggling to accept the slightly humdrum turn his life has taken. Together, they try to create their own PC, all while avoiding legal trouble from IBM.

MacMillan, at least in the pilot, is a man of mystery. He first appears on screen driving a fast car and heartlessly running over an armadillo. It's symbolic of his take-no-prisoners approach to life. But don't be too hard on Joe. "I love Joe. I believe in him. He's a very complicated person," Pace says. "At the end of the day, he just wants to make you a great computer." But Pace admits, "Yeah, it's fun to be bad. Who am I kidding? It's fun to behave badly."

Technology seems to be having a pop culture moment these days, with HBO's "Silicon Valley" taking on the comedic side of the industry in the modern era. "Halt and Catch Fire" leans more toward the dramatic. Though there are some funny hairstyles, setting the show in the '80s has its upsides. "The music is pretty great. I love the soundtrack to the show," says Pace.

For all the shenanigans Pace gets to enjoy playing Joe, he wants to remind viewers of one thing: "I'm not like that. Lee's not like that. … Lee would swerve around the armadillo," he says.

LISA WEIDENFELD
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Be prepared

No holding back

The show premieres June 1 at 10 p.m., but AMC made the pilot available early on Tumblr. If you enjoyed it, get ready for things to get crazier. "It just gets more insane from here, and the lengths that Joe will go to to get this computer to the marketplace get more and more extreme," says Pace.

LEE PACE
GETTY IMAGES

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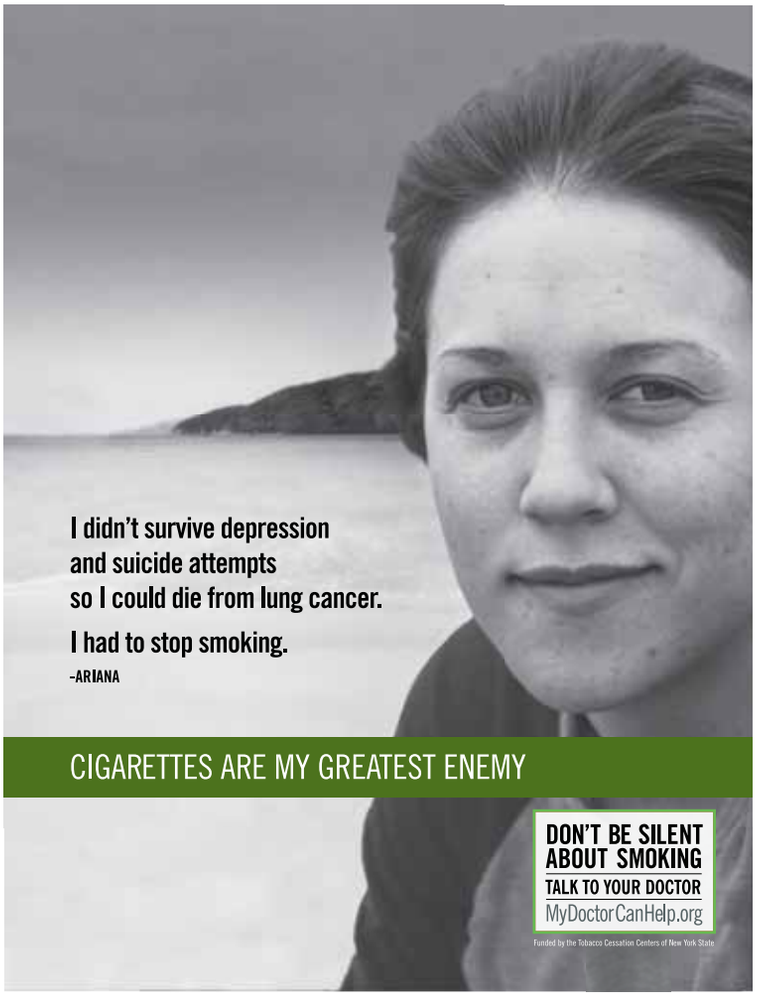
Death-defying moviemaking

Interview. Charlize Theron says shooting in the new West is as dangerous as the Old West.

Charlize Theron plays a gunslinger in "A Million Ways to Die in the West." / WIREIMAGE

You might think Seth MacFarlane had to chase down Charlize Theron to convince her to co-star in his cowboy comedy, "A Million Ways to Die in the West," but the Oscar-winning actress insists it was the other way around. "I got to read this pretty early on," she says of the script for the film, which skewers old-fashioned Westerns and life on the frontier. "Just the idea of doing something that's pitched in this very unusual way of a com-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Amanda Seyfried, Neil Patrick Harris and Seth MacFarlane admire Charlize Theron's shooting. / LOREY SEBASTIAN

edy Western situation and him at the helm of that — that to me was very intriguing. So I definitely did some chasing."

But a few weeks shooting on location in New Mexico, risking life and limb for a Western spoof, quickly had Theron rethinking taking so much initiative. "Look, it's a gorgeous place, [but] I don't necessarily want to go and shoot in it again. It's just that the weather was unbelievable. I felt like it was like biblical times, and we were all going to die a horrible death by weather," she says. "I mean, there was a night where we shot, and Seth left before me. I got a text from him that literally just said, 'The road is washing away! Get out of your trailer right now and start driving!' And I was like, 'I'm going to die on this movie.'"

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Taken

'A little starstruck'

One particular co-star does stand out, though: "Taken" superhero dad Liam Neeson, who plays villainous outlaw Clinch Leatherwood. "I think all of us were a little starstruck," she admits. "[I was] trying to be cool when I met first him. There's something about him. He is not just the one-dimensional actor, no matter what he does. And I think that's why people are so endeared by him and why you emotionally tap into him, no matter what he plays. He plays the baddie in this so convincingly, but there's a realness about him."

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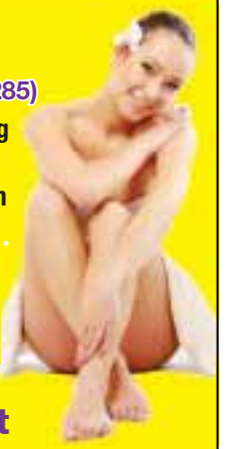

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Angelina Jolie (with Sam Riley) has some pretty cool horns in "Maleficent." / FRANK CONNOR

What you'll see

'Maleficent'

1 "Wicked" kicked off the trend of telling classic fairy tales from the villain's point of view. It finally gets around to "Sleeping Beauty," with Angelina Jolie and her sunken face embodying one of Disney's most visually striking baddies.

2 'A Million Ways to Die in the West'
This is what happens when everyone sees "Ted." Riding high on success, its maker, Seth MacFarlane, a) makes a spoof of a genre that the world, regrettably, now hates, and b) stars in it. But hey, NPH with a handlebar 'stache.

3 'Night Moves'
Director Kelly Reichardt ("Wendy and Lucy," "Meek's Cutoff") returns with a loose adaptation of Edward Abbey's "The Monkey Wrench Gang," about enviro-activists (Jesse Eisenberg, Dakota Fanning and Peter Sarsgaard) who get out of control.

4 'Filth'
While he bumbles around doing a Patrick Stewart impersonation in the new "X-Men," James McAvoy can also be seen acting like an evil detective, indulging in the various excesses written by novelist Irvine Welsh.

ADMIT ONE

Metro rounds up what's in cinemas this week.

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

5 'We Are the Best!'
Lukas Moodysson made one of the great, completely non-condescending teen films — 2000's "Show Me Love" — and his latest does the same for tomboyish tweens. Three girls with short hair start a punk band, and if their band isn't the best then the film kind of is.

6 'The Grand Seduction'
It's not clear if "Friday Night Lights" beefcake Taylor Kitsch can be funny, but at least this comedy gives him good company. Brendan Gleeson plays a resident trying to lure Kitsch's doctor to plant roots in his small town.

7 'X-Men: Days of Future Past'
Sadly, this isn't a comic book riff on the Moody Blues album "Days of Future Passed," but the latest entry in the franchise, this one involving time travel and killer robots. Actually, that sounds more fun.

8 'The Immigrant'
The last time Joaquin Phoenix and director James Gray collaborated ("Two Lovers"), the former did his fake-rapper shtick on the press tour. Reunited, they head to 1921 New York with Phoenix's pimp teaming up with Marion Cotillard.

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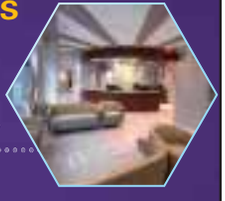

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Lea Michele's style secrets

Interview. The "Glee" star gives fans a peek into her everyday life.

Actress and singer Lea Michele is now a published author. In her new book, "Brunette Ambition," Michele details her journey from child star on Broadway to becoming the star of Fox's hit show "Glee." The glossy, photograph-filled book includes anecdotes about navigating life in Hollywood and her best beauty and style tips.

"I just really wanted to have the opportunity to do something for my fans," Michele says. "They are always asking me about health, beauty and fitness. So I wrote this book for them."

The book also pays tribute to Michele's singing idol Barbra Streisand: Each chapter begins with either a quote from the singer or from one of Streisand's iconic movie roles. "I think she is just amazing," Michele says of Streisand. "I remember watching 'Funny Girl' as a little girl, and I think that she's an amazing role model. I've been trying to do that for my fans [as well]."

Although Michele says that deep down, she's a jeans and T-shirt girl at heart, she also writes about her favorite award night looks and her red-carpet beauty routine. "I really love my hair and makeup team; they've been with me for a long time," she says. "When we're getting ready for the red carpet, we put on music. It's a lot of fun."

It's been a busy spring so far for Michele. In addition to promoting her new book, she just released the video for her single "On My Way" from her first solo album "Louder," and she voices the character of Dorothy in the animated film "Legends of Oz: Dorothy's Return."

"I was so happy that I had the opportunity to play Dorothy; it's such an iconic role," she says, noting that her favorite song in the film is "Work With Me."

Michele pauses for a moment when asked to name three items she thought every woman should have in her closet. "Boyfriend jeans, motorcycle boots and a leather jacket," she replies after consideration.

When asked to pick her favorite recipe in the book, her response was immediate: "I would definitely say the grilled cheese. I'd eat it every day if I could."

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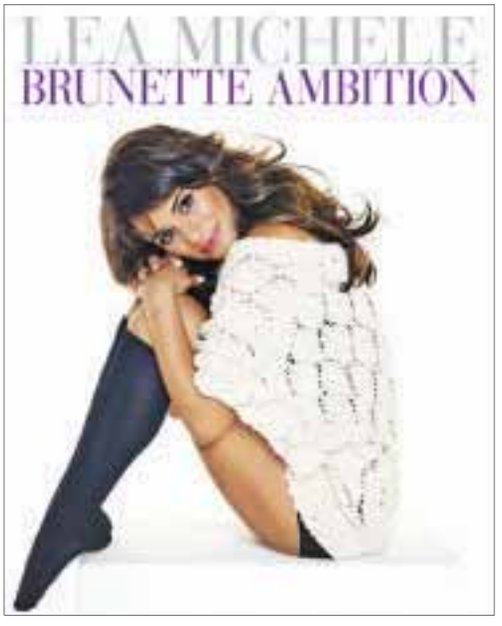

LEA MICHELE COMPARES HER RED-CARPET PICKS TO HER CASUAL STYLE IN HER NEW BOOK. / BRAVO, NBCU PHOTOBANK

Talking with Eva Chen

The Lucky editor goes normcore

Lucky magazine editor Eva Chen is one of the savviest style makers in the business and a fashion world darling. We were "lucky" enough to bump into her at Internet Week New York, and we just had to ask her what trends she's most excited about this summer.

The adjective she used to describe her summer style will shock you. Tailored? Chic? Curated? None of the above. Instead, Chen said she'll eschew glam and sophisticated looks this summer in favor of clothes that are "frumpy." Say what?

Chen waxed poetic about the "normcore" trend that is taking over New York and the fashion world. "My favorite trend for the summer is just everything frumpy," she tells us. "Things like mom jeans, Birkenstocks, crop tops and culottes. It's weird, but it's wonderful," not to mention comfortable. While Chen might be looking forward to dressing down, when we spoke with her during Internet Week, she was anything but frumpy.

ANDREA PARK

EVA CHEN MAY BE DRESSED UP HERE, BUT SHE PLANS ON WEARING BIRKENSTOCKS ALL SUMMER. / GETTY IMAGES

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I WANT MY GIRLFRIEND TO WATCH

Remember that everyone should be comfortable in the bedroom. / FUSE

Funky Brown Chick

TWANNA A. HINES, M.S.

AWARD-WINNING EDUCATOR AND SEX COLUMNIST. FOLLOW HER ON TWITTER @ FUNKYBROWNCHICK

I have this thing where I want my girlfriend to watch me masturbate and give encouragement. Is that strange?

Sex is not a multiple choice test with a single right answer. The possibilities for pleasure are endless. Knowing what turns you on and wanting your partner to be part of that can be a sign that you are in touch (pun intended) with your desire. Besides, who the hell passes up an opportunity to watch someone masturbate? Wait. Scratch that. Lots of people do. Maybe your girlfriend is in that group, maybe she is not. In either case, this is my advice.

Remember: Masturbation is good

It doesn't (usually) exchange babymaking fluids or give anyone an STD. Do it to relieve stress. Give yourself an orgasm. Learn how and where you like to be touched. Hell, use it as a form of foreplay or enjoy it as a means to its own deliciously tugged end.

Find out if she likes watching you drown your goose

You did not mention whether or not you asked your girlfriend if she wants to watch. If you haven't, start that conversation by letting her know you want her to boss you around while you "hacerse una paja," because it gets you hot. Tell her you want to share that feeling with her.

Reminder

Don't be discouraged

There is no need to feel rejected before you even rubbed one — or, technically, approximately 300 million little swimmers — out. Ask what turns her on to find a mutually pleasurable route to joint fun.

Find a form of play that works for both of you

Couples are rarely 100 percent in synch about all aspects of their relationship. When your playmate isn't into a particular playtime activity, take time to explore something else that works. See this possibly mismatched desire for what it is: an opportunity to expand your sexual creativity.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author.

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To text or not to text?

That is the question. Don't let texting run your life.

It was during a girls' night out in Manhattan that Lisa Winning first came up with the idea for what would become the popular website HeTexted.com.

"I found that my girlfriends were constantly talking about the texts they had gotten and what they meant," says Winning. Along with former magazine writer Carrie Henderson McDermott, Winning created HeTexted, a site devoted to decoding the texts that are a key part of courtship today. The pair have just released the new book, "He Texted: The Ultimate Guide to Decoding Guys" that breaks down everything they've learned in the process.

Since the site began two years ago, Winning has read hundreds of reader-submitted texts. Here are some of the things she says every single woman should keep in mind.

You may want to think twice before you hit send. / DIGITAL VISION

Tip

Get out into the world

"Have as much fun as possible," says Winning. "Maybe put down your phone when you are actually out with people. There's nothing like interacting with people face-to-face."

Set time limits

Don't spend all night texting."Five to six messages is good, and then you should put down your phone and go out into the world," she says.

Don't play games

"And don't stand for anyone who is playing games with you," says Winning.

Postpone that friend request

"Don't add him on Facebook, she says. "It's better not to have to pretend that you don't know that he has two brothers, or that you don't know where he went on vacation,"

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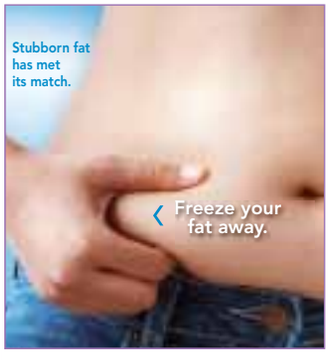

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Cocktail of the Week

Aperol Spritz

With its signature orange hue and zingy bitter taste, Aperol has a huge presence on the bar scene. Now, the aperitif is a must-have cocktail ingredient at home. Join the bandwagon by featuring the Aperol Spritz as the themed drink at your viewing party for "Orange Is the New Black," which returns to Netflix on June 6.

Ingredients

3 parts Cinzano prosecco
2 parts Aperol
1 dash soda
Ice and a slice of orange

Instructions

Add ice and a slice of orange, pour in the prosecco, mix in the Aperol and add a dash of soda. (This prevents the Aperol from settling at the bottom.)

4 Drink trends at MCC

Putting a twist on a classic cocktail can be a pleasant surprise. / PROVIDED

Manhattan Cocktail Classic. Whether you got wasted at the gala or wistful over friends' photos, you can still take away some of the pros' top tricks.

At the fifth annual Manhattan Cocktail Classic, held earlier this month, we not only tasted our livers' worth of spirits — from independently produced vermouth to alcoholic ice cream floats — but we also ran into Alexa Scordato, co-founder of Dipsology.com, a guide to local cocktail destinations since 2012. Scordato helped us highlight a few of this year's trends (plus where to go and what to buy to try them yourself).

Convenience

When you're pouring literally thousands of cocktails at events like MCC, it makes sense to prepare large batches in advance. But we noticed premixed and prepackaged drinks getting passed around in smaller venues without scrutiny from the discerning crowd. Says Scordato, "Consumers want to bring the bar back home, which is easier than ever with some of the ready-made products on the market. We're seeing an emphasis on fresh ingredients and top-shelf liquor, which means quality and convenience now go hand-in-hand." We recommend the Tanqueray cocktails on tap at Amory Amargo (443 E. Sixth St.).

Novelty

Not everything that's new has to be trendy.

Negroni

Nostalgia

Not everything that's trendy has to be new. We couldn't help but notice the staying power of classics. "Classic cocktails are timeless, but it's always fun to see them done with a twist," Scordato says. "Negronis and Old Fashioneds lend themselves to this trend because of their simplicity. With minimal ingredients and fairly straightforward prep, they leave lots of room for creativity." Learn more during Negroni Week, June 2-8 (www.negroniweek.com).

We noticed plenty of niche products making a splash — commercialism be damned. And that is a trend in itself. "Distillers and beverage innovators are exploring new products that go well beyond the usual suspects. Relatively obscure categories like pisco, cachaca and eau-de-vie are seeing renewed interest, along with completely new products such as Veev (distilled from acai berries), Sorel (a hibiscus-based liqueur) and Solbeso (distilled from cacao)," Scordato explains.

Whimsy

MCC bartender competitions can get intense, and the Industry Invitational is always instructional. But the men and women behind the bar also know how to let their hair down, and we noticed a lot of humor behind this year's best drinks. "Mixologists mean serious business behind the bar, but it doesn't mean they can't have fun," notes Scordato. "It's not surprising to see that mix manifest itself in drinks that are masterfully crafted yet maintain an element of surprise. We love Pam Wiznitzer at Dead Rabbit (30 Water St.) and Theo Lieberman of Milk and Honey (30 E. 23rd St.), who are pros at perfecting this balance."

T. MICHELLE MURPHY
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Kelvin Natural Slush Co. co-founder Alex Rein is happy to fill the Phrostie void. / PROVIDED

Frozen treat. DIY Phrosties

It looks like the days of Phrosties are over now that Sen. Charles Schumer announced he's coming after the underground alcoholic slushies, but that doesn't mean you have to deprive yourself of slurpable boozy treats this summer. Zack Silverman of Kelvin Natural Slush Co. told us, "Of course, we will be sad to see the Phrosties go, but we're happy to help people make their own." He shared two recipes for his favorite frozen cocktails with Metro. Kelvin, which has won food awards in the past, is known for using all-natural herbs and fruit purees. That's not exactly a Phrosties trademark, but we don't think it's a bad thing that Silverman suggests using ginger and rum instead of Kool-Aid mix and Everclear. Find the food truck at Smorgasburg and Brooklyn Flea, and around town at KelvinSlush.com.

ANDREA PARK

Frozen Lemon Mint Julep

Makes 4 servings

1 Make the lemon mint simple syrup. Bring water to low simmer. Add sugar and stir until sugar dissolves. Add sliced lemon with peel (do not squeeze lemon juice) and mint. Steep for 10 minutes. Strain and chill.

2 Add simple syrup and fresh mint to blender. Blend until mint is finely chopped. Add other ingredients and blend until smooth. Garnish with mint sprigs.

Ingredients

- ½ cup Knob Creek bourbon
- ⅓ cup fresh lemon juice (about two lemons)
- 8 cups ice
- ⅓ cup fresh mint (about 30 leaves)
- Lemon mint simple syrup

To make the lemon mint simple syrup:

- ½ cup water
- ½ cup cane sugar
- ½ fresh lemon, sliced
- ¼ cup fresh mint (about 10 leaves)

Happy as a clam

Hot Chef. We talk to chef Mike Price of The Clam about his new restaurant.

The Clam is Mike Price's third downtown venture. / PROVIDED

Mike Price opened The Clam at the beginning of the year on Hudson Street, and it has already become quite popular. The namesake dish is perfect for spring, and the interior may give you the feeling of being inside a majestic clam. We spoke with Price about his venture.

Why did you choose to open your restaurant downtown?
We have two other restaurants in the neighborhood – Market Table on Carmine Street, and my partner has The Little Owl on Bedford Street – and this neighborhood has already been very, very good to us. We didn't have any doubt that it should be downtown. Above 23rd Street is for going to the dentist or the lawyer.

How did you decide on the name?
I wanted to put the name of the ingredient we're celebrating in the name of the restaurant. I felt that was important. There are lobster restaurants, there are oyster restaurants, but nobody has really been doing a well-done clam restaurant. It's very, very sustainable, and they are relatively inexpensive, so I can charge a reasonable rate for my dishes. I feel like it's a fun ingredient. You can fry it, you can steam it, you can put it in pasta or on a pizza.

You certainly do a number of things with the clam, including using it as inspiration for the interior design.
We wanted to make this space look like a clam, in a very tasteful way. The ceiling is actually made of mother-of-pearl, which is made out of oysters and clam shells.

What is your favorite thing on the menu?
For me I feel like the standout is something that should have been done before, but has never really been done before: It's the lobster and clam sandwich. It's half lobster roll and half clam roll on top of each other on a brioche bun.

What places downtown do you go to yourself?
I love sitting in the bar at Annisa [13 Barrow St.]. There's also a place right down the street from me, and they've been doing a really good job. It's called Piora [430 Hudson St.] They make really delicious pastas. Blue Hill [75 Washington Pl.] is also one of my favorites. And I really love Soto [357 Sixth Ave.] for sushi.

LASSE EMIL KRISTIANSEN
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That Sunday afternoon began under a bridge, meeting nine others just like me who may have looked like your average citizens, but no one was to be trusted. The man we were meeting arrived with a briefcase and a mission: Get six criminals out of the country after a big heist.

The first stop was a bar full of women's undergarments hanging from the ceiling, where the bartender told us a man stopped by earlier to buy us a round of drinks and left us a note. My accomplices and I decoded the letter over our beverages.

It led us to a car rental shop next to a street vendor selling knickknacks. The sketchy salesman asked if I wanted a smoke and motioned an opened box of cigarettes toward me. "Go on. Take it," he insisted. I looked him in the eye. "You got something for me?" He did. The small clue led me to a blind man in a park.

This is just a taste of what it's like to be on the Accomplice Tour, a theatrical scavenger hunt held every weekend both downtown and in Greenwich Village. JENNIFER VALDEZ

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www.stannswarehouse.org
For nine months artists in the Puppet Lab of St. Ann's Warehouse work on puppets, narratives, sets and honing their skills for the annual Labapalooza! festival. See what they've been experimenting with in shows like "Gulliver's Travels" and "Frances Faye's Folk Song Sing-A-Long."

ART

McKellen Me Softly

Today, 7 p.m.
Church of the Holy Apostles
296 Ninth Ave.
$10-$20 suggested donation
www.mckellenmesoftly.com
Geeks Out is paying homage to award-winning actor Sir Ian McKellen with an art show based on ... him. Whether you're a fan of his work as Magneto in the X-Men movies or the all-knowing Gandalf in "Lord of the Rings" — or you just love him 'cause he's awesome — there's something here for everyone.

Bushwick Open Studios

Friday-June 1
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PARTY

OutdoorFest

May 30-June 8, Free;
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This inaugural 10-day "outdoor adventure festival" spans all five boroughs to discover the outdoors amid the concrete jungle. Whether you're a nature lover or an exercise enthusiast, all skill levels can find an event on the massive schedule, which includes a mix of fitness — bouldering, slacklining, parkour — and general outdoor interest — foraging, photography, birding. All events are free, but some limit group sizes and require registration.

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Free, 347-750-5386
www.brooklynxrooftops.com
Have you been pumping iron with your thumbs? Taking vitamins, saying your prayers, the whole Hulkamania thing? Well, you don't need 24-inch pythons for this one. Go thumb-to-thumb with other thumb-wrestling maniacs, win prizes and enjoy delicious food and drinks at Brooklyn Rooftops and Toy Sldrs' first of many co-sponsored outings.

SCREENING

'Cosmos: Unafraid of the Dark'

June 4, 6:30 p.m.
The Paley Center for Media
25 W. 52nd St.
$15, 212-621-6600
www.paleycenter.org
At this screening of the final episode of "Cosmos," host Neil deGrasse Tyson and the show's executive producers will discuss how they used the latest in digital technology to expand Carl Sagan's original vision. Who knew science could be so cool?

WINE

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CONVENTION

JOHN GREEN WILL TALK "THE FAULT IN OUR STARS" AT BOOKCON. / GETTY IMAGES

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www.thebookcon.com
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COMING UP

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THEATER

Shakespeare in the Park comes out of hibernation on June 3. / TAMMY SHELL

The Public Theater's Free Shakespeare in the Park

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Free, 212- 539-8500, www.publictheater.org
Because you didn't get your fill of Shakespeare (or Christopher Marlowe, for you conspiracy theorists) in high school, you can catch some classic 'Speare free in Central Park. First up are Hamish Linklater and Lily Rabe are Beatrice and Benedick in the rom-com "Much Ado About Nothing." Directed by three-time Tony winner Jack O'Brien, catch the Sicilian summer tale with a new NYC backdrop.

Horoscope

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Use a little restraint in social situations. You should be more tactful. You will appear foolish if you try to be the life of every party.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. It's a good time to refresh your surroundings. Let those affected by your decisions have a say. Don't make any oral agreements without doing thorough research.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. An unexpected partnership will provide you with a way to increase your income. Keep an open mind if someone offers to help.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Don't take any risks with your finances or career. You will encounter problems if your scheme backfires.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. You will feel the need to experiment with new ideas and projects. Others may not be in agreement with your plans, but you will make gains if you let your imagination run free.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Examine an investment idea, but avoid getting involved in a joint venture. Your reputation will escalate if you are loyal.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Someone close to you is unclear about your feelings. Say what is in your heart.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Your future will improve once you share your ideas with an influential person. You will be obliged to back up your plans with facts, so be prepared.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Your self-confidence needs a boost. Spend time with children or friends and engage in physical challenges that will get your motor running.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. You will lose respect if you allow others to take advantage of you. Don't fall short because you put your needs last.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. An old partner is likely to want to reconnect. Your charm and attractiveness will stir up some interest with new and old acquaintances.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Your career path is questionable. If you don't enjoy what you're doing, find a way to make work more engaging. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

			4	3	9			
		9		1		8	3	2
7			6					4
	1							5
		6	7	5	1	2		
8							7	
5					2			7
6	8	4		7		3		
			8	9	6			

		3	5		9		4	
	8		3			5	2	
6					8			
		7			5	3		
9		1				4		8
		8	4			6		
			9					4
	9	5			4		6	
	1		2		7	9		

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

Not a gun law issue

Re: 'Victim's father blames government "idiots" as town mourns killings' (Metro, May 27) Though there is no doubt that stricter enforced gun laws would have prevented the shootings, the fact remains that at the end of the day, we live in a culture where a woman saying "no" is the cause of violence and death. Violence against women is belittled and seen as a joke. And mental health issues seem to be what is being blamed for this tragedy. People with mental issues live full lives without stabbing or shooting anyone, so while I have no doubt that Elliot Rodger had issues, they aren't to blame. Plenty of people in the world are lonely and are not having sex, and yet they don't go on murderous rampages.
TOVA WEISBLATT, VIA EMAIL

Be careful what you wish for

Re: 'Elect Clinton for historical significance' (Metro, May 28) I enjoyed the letter calling to elect Hillary Clinton president for the sake of historical significance. But a flaw in that argument is that one could advocate electing Sarah Palin for the same reason. We need to find more compelling reasons to elect a candidate.
STEVEN EDLIN, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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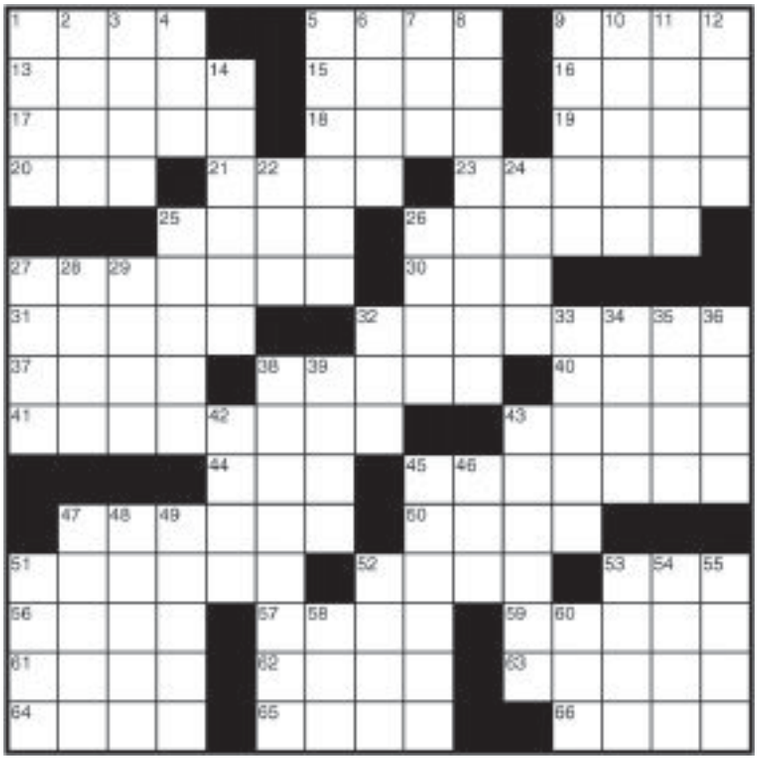
Crossword

Across
1 Kind of jockey
5 Dr. Zhivago's love
9 Guitarist — Atkins
13 Burst forth
15 "Get real!" (2 wds.)
16 Eavesdrop
17 Locks up
18 Just for guys
19 Deep-voiced lady
20 Formic acid producer
21 Tee-hee kin (hyph.)
23 Grabbed a cab
25 Intuition
26 Dowager
27 Reduced
30 Que. neighbor
31 Separate
32 Invented words
37 Dallas hoopsters
38 Thick carpets
40 Dressy event
41 Stadium seat
43 "Blues" street of song
44 Playful bark
45 Held tight
47 Blazer
50 Wedding confetti
51 Yummy nut
52 Green mineral
53 — out (withdraw)
56 All, in combos
57 "Darn!"
59 Hamelin visitor
61 Bank holding
62 Cleanse
63 Ham portion
64 Prefix for "trillion"
65 Fiscal period
66 — -majeste

Down
1 — vu
2 Baha'i origin
3 Diamonds or clubs
4 Noncom
5 Tied securely
6 Thin Man's dog
7 Narrow inlet
8 Kabul natives
9 Lion-tamer's prop
10 Phone response
11 Consumed
12 Walked heavily
14 Top (hyph.)
22 Actor — Vigoda
24 Business letter abbr.
25 Vice —
26 Synthesizer inventor
27 Entree choice
28 Iridescent stone
29 Ripple
32 Clunker
33 Standing wide open
34 Pant
35 Journalist — Ducommun
36 Kind of castle
38 With forethought
39 Weight
42 Party centerpiece
43 Hunks flex them
45 Kitchen gadget
46 Free of
47 — Lee Curtis
48 "Lou Grant" lead
49 Giant panda's land
51 Wild West revolver
52 Island near Borneo
53 Mayberry kid
54 Chest muscles
55 It has rings
58 Charlotte of "Bananas"
60 Laid up

Yesterday's answer



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3 SPORTS

Lesson learned

Pacers star is sorry

After suggesting LeBron James' trash talk was a sign of weakness back in Game 4, Pacers forward Lance Stevenson came forward to admit he should have kept his thoughts to himself. "I've been learning since I got in the league," Stevenson, whose squad played for their playoff lives Wednesday night, said. "I came a long way. And I'm gonna keep learning till I get to that point where I'm a real pro."

Get it straight

VICK WAS NAMED STARTER IN EAGLES CAMP LAST YEAR. GETTY IMAGES

Vick, Ryan not on the same page

The Jets had the opportunity to stomp out any talk about a quarterback competition on Wednesday. Instead, they fanned the flames.

Michael Vick told the media last week that second-year quarterback Geno Smith was the starter and he was ready for a mentor role, a shocking admission when management said there would be competition across the board for all positions. Vick reiterated that stance on Wednesday, saying, "Nah, it's not an open competition."

Head coach Rex Ryan sounded — and looked — puzzled when asked why Vick would label the competition as closed.

"I don't know. You know, I don't know. I think there is competition, there's no doubt," Ryan said. "When you have competition in your own room, that's what brings out the best in everybody."

Ryan passed on assessing the two quarterbacks, saying it was too early. **KRISTIAN DYER**

Rangers ready to rely on MSG crowd

NHL playoffs. The Blueshirts need to clinch the series on Thursday or face a Game 7 on the road in Montreal.

Henrik Lundqvist's ignominious exit from Game 5 is not a concern for the Rangers heading into Thursday's contest. / GETTY IMAGES

By their own admission, the Rangers' Game 5 performance was as disjointed an effort as they have authored this season.

But needing just one win in order to advance to the franchise's first Stanley Cup Final since 1994, the Rangers believe playing Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals in the Garden will provide a necessary remedy.

"[It's] an amazing opportunity to clinch a game to go to the Stanley Cup Final in front of your home crowd," Brad Richards said during the Rangers' media availability Wednesday in Montreal. "I think everybody is alert and ready that way. We were talking about it all day how excited we were to get on the ice and start playing."

The Rangers lead the best-of-seven series 3-2. But in order to qualify for the final, it is imperative the Rangers are significantly better than they were in a wild 7-4 loss in Game 5.

For a team that prides itself on its own-zone play, the Rangers had a complete defensive breakdown Tuesday night. Twelve Canadiens finished with at least one point, led by Andrei Markov and Rene Bourque, with three each.

The defensive disintegration prompted head coach Alain Vigneault to lift Henrik Lundqvist for Cam Talbot midway through the second period. Lundqvist allowed four goals on 19 shots. Talbot surrendered two goals on eight shots, and David Desharnais potted an empty netter to finish the rout.

"[Tuesday] night didn't look great," Dan Girardi said. "But we all feel great about where we are here in the playoffs and we still have a great opportunity going into [Thursday] night to finish it off here. We have to look at it that way. Win a game at home, and go to the Stanley Cup Final.

"I think no matter how the game before goes, you have to have a short-term memory in the playoffs. The great thing about this game is we're able to come back one night later and be able to right the ship and forget about everything. That's what we're going to have to do is kind of forget about that one, travel home and come ready [Thursday] morning."

Quoted

"You see how competitive he is, and that's not going to sit well. Even when he plays good, he's focused. ... It's not something we'll have to worry about."

Brad Richards, on goaltender Henrik Lundqvist bouncing back from Game 5

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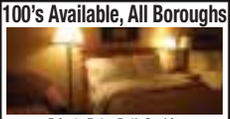

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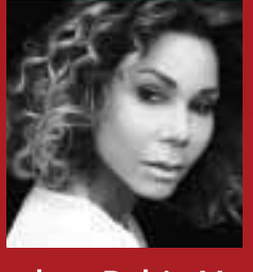

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